

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Housing Commission
Special Meeting
October 18th, 2012
4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 312, LTBB Government Complex

Closed Session: None

Call to Order: 4:05 p.m.

Roll call: Chairman Ray Kiogima – Present, Vice Chairperson Arlene Naganashe – Present, Secretary Patrick Wernigwase – Present, Commissioner Larry Stead – Absent, Commissioner – Vacant

Staff present: Executive Housing Director – John Givens

Guests present: Jessica Searles – Tribal Member; David Harrington – Tribal Member

Opening Prayer: Ray Kiogima

The following letter was sent to the LTBB Housing Commission on October 12th, 2012:

Our family is in need of low income housing, we are both LTBB Tribal members, presently unemployed and long standing residents of Northern Michigan with children in the Petoskey Public School system. We are trying to get a ruling on the Housing Regulations for the Murray Road site and we need an answer very soon. Our present residence is in foreclosure and the landlord has stopped maintaining the structure. We need housing to keep our kids safe and to reduce the stress while they are attending school.

The issue is a prior conviction is preventing us from getting a unit at the Murray Road site. We request a chance to address this issue with the Housing Commission and due to the severity we would like to request a special meeting since our situation could change at any day and the weather is getting colder. We just want a chance to explain our present situation and give assurances that we would comply with all regulations and established policies for the housing community.

Jessica Searles and David Harrington

John let the commission know that Jessica was on the waiting list for a while and that she was also next on the list also, and also that David has a couple things on his record that are rather out dated in his history. David's background includes a

drug charge and an assault that is a violent crime; which both is grounds to keep him out of any of the Tribal Housing that we offer be it rental or ownership. He also let the commission know that the Tribal Chairmen is the only one that can fore go the criminal background check in this case. He also suggests that they go through the appeal process.

Ray was saying that we can't let the kids be exposed to any drugs at all. As the Housing Commission we have to make the right decision on this as a whole and look into this more. I think we can let you rent but who's to say that the behavior won't happen again.

Arlene believes that drugs are not good around children either, I personally know David and have seen him around his kids and how he is trying to improve himself. We all make mistake and we all learn from our mistakes this has been over twelve years ago and I think we should give him a chance to live in this community.

David says his oldest daughter is now twelve years old and she has never seen me drunk or high. She doesn't know what a drunk is or even a drug addict is; we understand what you are trying to do out at the Tribal Villages by trying to keep out the violent offenders and drug addicts. Few months ago we both had goods Jessica worked for the tribe and I worked for Buffalo Wild Wings. But my assault charge was in '86 and my drug charge was in 2000. I've been clean since then haven't even had a speeding ticket and the reason for that are my kids. Jessica and I give up everything for them. Jessica supports everything David says and she thinks it's not good to just approve her and not him when the children really love their father. She says he takes the kids to school every day and also helps out at the schools whenever they ask for it. The kids at the school love it when he comes to help out with the field trips or any of the class projects.

Patrick says he thinks that we should give them a chance. I don't really know David but it sounds like to me that he has proven that he has really turned his life around since all his run-ins with the law. Maybe we as a commission should draft up a letter and turn it in to the chairmen's office to let them know our stand on this situation. Ray and Arlene also agree with drafting up a letter and will let me draft up the letter and will sign it also; I will also get ahold of Larry and have him sign it also. I will also give a copy of the letter to Jessica and David also so they know that we followed through with what we told them here today.

Motion made by Arlene Naganashe and supported by Ray Kiogima to send a letter to support of Jessica Searles and David Harrington's application to the Tribal Chairmen's office.

Vote: 3 – Yes, 0 – No, 1 – Absent, 0 – Abstained, 1 – Vacant

Motion Carried

Motion made by Arlene Naganashe and supported by Patrick to adjourn at 5:14 P.M.
Vote: 3 – Yes, 0 – No, 1 – Absent, 0 – Abstained, 1 – Vacant
Motion Carried

Date: 10/01/12

Patrick Wemigwase, Secretary

DRAFT